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By: **Delegates Benson, Vallario, Phillips, and Cadden**  
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety - Correctional Institutions - Telephone Contracts**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain contracts that provide telephone service for  
4 inmates from providing for the State or a local government to receive a certain  
5 commission or revenue under certain circumstances; prohibiting the State or a  
6 local government from receiving certain commissions or revenue from certain  
7 contracts; requiring a certain reduction in charges for inmate telephone calls  
8 under certain circumstances; providing for the application of this Act; and  
9 generally relating to contracts for inmate telephone calls.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Correctional Services  
12 Section 8-901 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 9. Inmate Telephone  
13 Contracts"  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1999 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Correctional Services**

19 **SUBTITLE 9. INMATE TELEPHONE CONTRACTS.**

20 8-901.

21 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, FOR ANY CONTRACT  
22 ENTERED INTO BY THE STATE AND A LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH A  
23 TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDER TO PROVIDE TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR  
24 INMATES:

25 (1) THE CONTRACT MAY NOT PROVIDE FOR THE STATE OR A LOCAL  
26 GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE ANY COMMISSION OR OTHER FORM OF REVENUE; AND

1           (2)       THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAY NOT RECEIVE ANY  
2 COMMISSION OR OTHER FORM OF REVENUE.

3       (B)       FOR ANY REDUCTION IN THE COST OF A CONTRACT DESCRIBED UNDER  
4 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL  
5 ENSURE THAT THE REDUCTION IS REASONABLY REFLECTED IN THE CHARGES FOR  
6 INMATE TELEPHONE CALLS.

7       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply only  
8 to contracts for telephone service entered into on or after June 1, 2002, and may not  
9 be construed to affect a contract entered into before June 1, 2002.

10       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 June 1, 2002.